Dear Js,

9/2/74

I'd appreciate any comment and opinion you may have about the attached hit-or-miss notes I made this a.m. about yesterday's conversations with Hudkins. Much keeps coming back, with a few questions, like how does an experienced reporter wind up covering a minor rural beat for a big-city paper when it is a rural area and he does not drive?

I don't know when I'll get to dub the tapes. I wish there were someone trustworthy I could get to transcribe because I believe the exact words made be significant, as may some of the generalities of the general discussion. And specifics I may not recall.

I may use the Sony and the Craig when I know I won't use the Sony. The quality with the Craig, which has been so very helpful and so heavily used, is down. I've been intending to try to find a good local shop that will repair what they do not sell. It is well worth a repair bill if it needs parts they can get, the reason for the new local practice. Or I may be able to persuade JL to get his successor to the TC 40 repaired. Or borrow it if he doesn't. It plays back but doesn't record. Or have a special cord made for using my VOR this way. The one that came with it doesn't work for this kind of patching. Somehow before too long I'll do this. But the recent mailing indicates why I don't like to have the Sony not ready for instant use, in my office. The times of need are few but important when they occur.

Lil has the feeling that Donnie felt he was telling me what he felt I knew in essence, that while he might be adding details he would not be telling me anything significant and new to me. She feels he may still be CIA. She thinks that perhaps when his wife realized this she began to relax.

He said that the agency was feeding me misleading leads but I told him I had had nothing like this happen because I was certain that I had no such sources.

His belief is that either the Russians or the CIA were responsible for assassination.

I did note areas to which he did not react or respond but I ignored them because they could have involved sources he might not want to cite. There was never any awkward pause. Perhaps this will be clarified in the future. I do expect them back and I did ask him to let me know when so I could have copies of other reports for him.

His expectation of being called before a Senate committee has no connection with this transcript. (I told him its history.) It appears to be in connection with CIA. No further discussion of this yesterday.

He says he is going to Haiti in a month, that he now can. Meaning that Papa Doc did not like and that son does. He says he was part of the invasion fouled up in that single airplane operation that was messed up by the mercenaries. I told him how openly Hemming and Howard discussed this in front of me, on tape and with callers on phone. He told me of famous guitar-playing Haitian who was shot, was in U.S. hospital, how he tricked police guard away from door and got to see him to offer asylum only to be told it was an accident or mistake involving Touton gang and he was safe there. He was.

The second-most-decorated World War II hero, apparently CIA, was involved in something not clear in my mind now. Next to Audie Murphy in decorations. Would not talk about.

How a Texas reporter gets involved in those kinds of capers for and with CIA is not clear except as liaison with Texans. He would have contacts and could be a cutoff and could be expected to preserve confidence. He disclosed no Agency identifications to me. This really gets back to Lil's feeling and some of what is in my first memo.

He thinks we should do a novel about this together. He ghosted a successful novel, he says.

While the whole thing was very interesting, it adds nothing substantial to what I had already. Interesting details and characterizations and descriptions. But not really useful fact I can now recall. However, were it possible to check some out, like those pictures taken in lineup room Firday night, it could be quite impirtant. And new.